



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8

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Ref: TMS-IO

Region 8's Environmental Policy

Preamble

In Region 8, our operations, such as running a government office, operating a laboratory, traveling, commuting to work, purchasing and contracting, and communicating with others, result in hundreds of actions and decisions that affect the environment. Each day, opportunities are presented to improve our performance and reduce our ecological footprint.

The following principles should be used to guide our journey towards sustainability. EPA Region 8 employees strive to integrate environmental considerations into our workplace behavior. EPA Region 8 managers should lead by example, asking employees to integrate their guiding principles into the work we do.

EPA Region 8's Guiding Principles

EPA's mission is to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment by setting standards for environmental protection, assisting others in reducing or preventing pollution, conducting environmental research and enforcing environmental protection standards in conjunction with other government agencies. In support of that mission, proper management of the environmental impacts of our own operations and facilities is warranted.

Environmental protection is the very foundation of our mission and activities. Thus, our environmental policy and our day-to-day operations should reflect the fact that we are national experts in the field of environmental management. The following policy statements stem from a conviction that we can maintain Agency credibility only if we lead by example. It is imperative that our own environmental management system (EMS) be among the very best if we are to lead and critique others on their environmental performance.

- As we compel statutory and regulatory compliance by the regulated community, we must ensure that we meet and exceed applicable legal requirements. We will demonstrate continual improvement in our own environmental performance as an example of our expectation of environmental improvement by those we regulate.
- We will strive to reduce our ecological footprint by reducing our use of natural resources and our dependence on materials extracted from the Earth. We will employ source reduction and pollution prevention as strategies to achieve these goals.
- We will move toward operations based on renewable energy and materials, requiring consideration of environmental factors when making purchasing and operating decisions
- We will strive to ensure that our decisions and actions protect all communities and people, regardless of location, income or race.
- We will establish, track and review specific environmental performance goals, using our facilities as learning labs.

- We will work to increase staff knowledge about ways to reduce our ecological footprint and move our Region towards sustainability through training and on-the-job experience. We will become effective advocates to others.
- We will share our successes and lessons learned with the public, striving through dialogue to improve our own performance and that of others.

The EMS policy was affirmed by the signatures of Regional Administrator Robert E. Roberts and members of the Senior Leadership Team, on September 19, 2007.

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